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Preface

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PREFACE

It is my great privilege and honour to write the preface of this report of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Conference on World Mission and Evangelism, which took place in Arusha, Tanzania, in March 2018. It was an extraordinary event in many ways, as the reader will discover in going through the conference material. The aim of this volume is to be as useful and user-friendly as possible for the reader, whether they are used to the ecumenical context or not.

The table of contents does not fully follow the programmatic or chronological order of the Arusha Conference. Instead, it starts with what most theologians, mission practitioners, and parish pastors would look for: the outcome of the conference. These are two documents or statements: the Arusha Call to Discipleship and the Arusha Conference Report, both in Part One of the book. Part Two contains two other documents that illustrate the history and development of World and African Christianity leading to the Arusha Conference on World Mission and Evangelism. The e-book also includes other documents leading directly to that outcome, as well as a link to the WCC mission statement *Together towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes* (2012/2013), which, of course, has been decisive for and influential in the conference. After exploring the outcome of the conference (Part One), the structure follows a time frame: toward Arusha (Part Two), in Arusha (Parts Three and Four) and after Arusha (Part Five), which tries to glimpse some impacts of the conference and look toward the future of the ecumenical mission movement.

Many report books are more or less compilations of the written material of a conference or seminar. To avoid this approach, the report is composed of three parts, or books. First, in keeping with the idea of user-friendliness, an e-book is the most complete version of the official documentation of the Arusha conference. The electronic format permits a longer version than a hard copy can achieve, as well as giving readers the option of opening links to other material on the internet. We have made good use of those opportunities. Much of the material from the Arusha Conference has been posted on the WCC website for several months, but here it is grouped together in the order listed in the table of contents. The e-book covers extensively the material of the Arusha Conference; it also includes devotions from Arusha and inspired by Arusha, consisting of the Bible studies presented in the conference and 12

plans for devotions following the 12 points of the Arusha Call to Discipleship, the devotions developed after the conference.

Second, the print version of the Arusha report offers highlights of the Arusha Conference – a selection of the main documents. Not every single document from the conference is included in the print version, as these can be found in the e-book. The print version is meant for those theologians and mission practitioners who work professionally in or for mission, either in theology or practice, and need a hard copy as a handy reference on their bookshelf.

Third, after the conference, which was a great experience of Christian unity, fellowship, and spirituality, there came an idea of trying to catch something of that experience and make it available to those who could not attend but wanted to experience (or refresh) some of the conference's spirituality and atmosphere. The outcome is the Arusha devotional resource book, as mentioned earlier. This part of our report is also available in a separate print version: it is meant for parish use, for pastors and lay people, in Bible study groups, prayer groups, mission groups, various devotions, and so on.

In the Appendices the reader will find the Accompanying Letter to the Arusha Call to Discipleship, the Conference Leadership, and a short report of GETI (Global Ecumenical Theological Institute). GETI was a group of more than 100 young theologians from 40 countries who joined the Arusha Conference. We have included here only a short report from GETI. The reader can find in the e-book a link to the full GETI report.

The opinions expressed in the various presentations in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the World Council of Churches and its Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME).

To conclude, I would like to offer some words of thanks. To start with, it is clear that the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism in Arusha would never have come to be without the CWME and its moderator and vice-moderator, and without the indefatigable support of the leadership of the WCC. A great word of thanks goes to Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum for his tireless work for the conference. He is also co-editor of this report book with me. As his successor as the director of the CWME, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the WCC leadership, to the commission and its leadership, and to all the WCC staff for their support and hard work for the success of the conference. Special thanks go to Rev. Kyeong-Ah Woo for her work for the Arusha devotional resource book, as well as to Michael West for his editorial guidance and support for this report. I also wish to thank the African hosts,

the Local Host Committee, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, other Tanzanian churches, as well as the All Africa Conference of Churches. We are also grateful to all the voluntary workers and stewards and, finally, to the participants from all over the world.

Rev. Dr Risto Jukko

Co-Editor, Director of CWME